

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOARES KNOCKS ON THE FIRST EC DOOR

DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON IN SEARCH OF SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL'S EC MEMBERSHIP BID, PRIME MINISTER SOARES TOLD PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN THAT:

--MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT ONLY PREVENT PORTUGAL FROM BECOMING A "EUROPEAN CUBA," BUT WOULD SAVE IT FROM
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TURNING INTO A "EUROPEAN COLONY OF THE US."

--PORTUGAL SHOULD BE ABLE TO PAY ITS DEBTS BY 1981-82, AND ITS ECONOMIC SITUATION IS NOT AS DESPERATE AS THAT OF GREECE OR TURKEY.

--PORTUGAL WILL PRESENT ITS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEXT MONTH, AND HOPES THE COMMISSION WILL RESPOND TO IT "IMMEDIATELY."

EMBASSY COMMENT: CALLAGHAN RECEIVED SOARES WARMLY, AND THE FCO BELIEVES BRITAIN WILL TRY TO CONVINCE THE EC TO MOVE LISBON'S APPLICATION ALONG. DESPITE ACUTE AWARENESS OF THE

POTENTIAL ECONOMIC COST OF PORTUGAL'S MEMBERSHIP, HMG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THE COMMUNITY SHOULD GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO THE POLITICAL AIM OF STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY THERE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 2808, 2/17.)

2. BONN: OPPOSITION PRESSING SCHMIDT ON BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORD

EMBASSY BONN REPORTS THAT CDU/CSU PARTY CHIEF HELMUT KOHL WROTE TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FEBRUARY 4 SUGGESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION AGREE ON A COMMON POSITION CONCERNING NUCLEAR ACCORDS. THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER ARE NOT YET PUBLIC, BUT THE GERMAN PRESS HAS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED THAT IT URGES SCHMIDT TO RESIST US PRESSURE TO ALTER THE NUCLEAR DEAL WITH BRAZIL. KOHL HIMSELF IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM MANY IN HIS PARTY WHO FEEL THAT REVERSING ITSELF ON THIS AGREEMENT WILL DAMAGE GERMANY'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE OPPOSITION'S OFFER TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BACK DOWN ON THE BRAZIL AGREEMENT, AND SCHMIDT WILL HAVE
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TO BE CAREFUL THAT HE DOES NOT OPEN HIMSELF TO CHARGES THAT HE HAS NEGLECTED GERMAN INTERESTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 2929, 2/16.)

3. SAUDI AID MAY HELP CONSOLE JILTED SOMALIS

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AL MANSOURI TOLD AMBASSADOR PORTER FEBRUARY 16 THAT SAUDI ARABIA MAY SOON RESUME FINANCIAL AID TO SOMALIA IN AN EFFORT TO BLOCK GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. HE SAID THE SAG INTENDS TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE RUSSIANS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. THE SAUDIS BELIEVE THE NEW ETHIOPIAN REGIME HAS TILTED SHARPLY TOWARD THE SOVIETS, AND PLAN TO EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITY THIS PRESENTS TO WOO ITS SOMALI RIVAL.

MEANWHILE, THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S SON-IN-LAW VISITED SAUDI ARABIA TWO WEEKS AGO IN SEARCH OF AID, PARTIALLY ON THE

GROUND THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOW MORE INTERESTED IN ETHIOPIA THAN SOMALIA. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 1357, 2/17.)

4. URUGUAY READY FOR CONCESSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

URUGUAYAN OAS REPRESENTATIVE ARANEO HAS TOLD EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO THAT HE AND OTHER DIPLOMATS MAY HAVE CONVINCED MILITARY LEADERS THAT THEY MUST IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE IF THEY WISH TO FOSTER BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE

US. ARANEO SAID HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN A HIGH-LEVEL GOU REVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON, AND SAID HE THOUGHT THE MILITARY, ANGERED BY RECENT US MOVES IT CONSIDERED "PUNITIVE," HAD BEEN PERSUADED THAT RETALIATION WOULD BE USELESS. ARANEO SAID URUGUAY WOULD INSTEAD SOON MOVE TO LIBERALIZE ITS TREATMENT OF SUBVERSIVES, BUT DOUBTED THAT THE REGIME WOULD YET BE READY TO WELCOME A VISIT BY THE

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INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. (CONFIDENTIAL) MONTEVIDEO 650, 2/16.)

5. ECUADOR: ANOTHER TRY ON ARMS AID

EMBASSY QUITO REPORTS THAT THE GOE IS PLANNING TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL MISSION INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER SALVADOR LARA AND DEFENSE MINISTER ARRATA TO WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS DEFENSE PROBLEMS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS. ADMIRAL OLMEDO, CHIEF OF THE GOE'S JOINT ARMED FORCES COMMAND, SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WOULD NOT BE TO POUND THE TABLE ABOUT THE KFIR REFUSAL, OVER WHICH INITIAL INDIGNATION WAS ALREADY GIVING WAY TO SOBER REALISM. HE SAID THE GOE HAD DETERMINED AT A FEBRUARY 15 MEETING THAT IT WOULD NOT ALLOW BILATERAL RELATIONS TO BE DISRUPTED EVEN IF THE US DENIED IT THE WEAPONRY IT NEEDED. OLMEDO SAID THE MISSION WOULD BE AIMED AT MAKING THE US AWARE OF THE SERIOUS DEFENSE PROBLEMS ECUADOR FACES, IN HOPES THE GOE COULD STILL OBTAIN AIR DEFENSE AID FROM THE US AND AVOID GOING TO THE SOVIETS. (CONFIDENTIAL) QUITO 1132, 2/17.)

6. UGANDAN DEATHS MAY STIR OPPOSITION

EMBASSY NAIROBI, MONITORING RADIO KAMPALA'S REPORT THAT UGANDA'S ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP WAS KILLED FEBRUARY 16 WHILE ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO ESCAPE DETENTION, NOTES THAT THE MAJORITY OF UGANDANS ARE CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE LONG RESENTED IDI AMIN'S USE OF MUSLIM MINORITY TRIBESMEN TO CONTROL THE POPULACE. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH DIPLOMAT AND THE NAIROBI PRESS, EIGHTEEN UGANDAN BISHOPS SIGNED A FORCEFUL LETTER FEBRUARY 10 CONDEMNING ATROCITIES BY AMIN'S SECURITY

FORCES. THE EMBASSY PREDICTS THAT THE KILLING OF THE ARCH-
BISHOP MAY PROVOKE MORE UNIFIED OPPOSITION TO AMIN THAN
HAS BEEN SEEN IN SEVERAL YEARS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NAIROBI

2168, 2/17.)

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